

Message Text

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70

ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ERDA-05

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R 041320Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

TO SECNAV WASHDC

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1675

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

C O N F I D E N T I A L CONAKRY 0445

FOR SECRETARY OF THE NAVY MIDDENDORF FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OCIR PFOR GV US

SUBJECT: PROPOSED US NAVAL VISIT TO CONAKRY

REF: CONAKRY 0256 AND EARLIER CORRESPONDENCE

1. YOU WILL HAVE NOTICED FROM INTELLIGENCE REPORTS THE MARKED INCREASE IN SOVIET NAVAL AND AIR FORCE PRESENCE IN CONAKRY OVER THE PAST TWO MONTHS, INCLUDING MISSILE CRUISER ADMIRAL MAKAROV, JULIETTE CLASS SUBMARINE, AND TWO DESTROYERS, IN ADDITION USUAL LANDING CRAFT AND TANKERS. SOVIET MARINES ARE CONSTRUCTING A JET FUEL DEPOT IN CONAKRY, SUGGESTING THEIR INTENTION TO MAINTAIN LARGE SCALE AIR DEPLOYMENTS OR STAGING OUT OF GUINEA.

2. WE NOW HAVE INDICATIONS OF RENEWED SOVIET INTEREST IN

CONSTRUCTING A NAVAL BASE ON TAMARA ISLAND OFF CONAKRY. AFRICAN "PROGRESSIVES" SUCH AS SEKOU TOURE FEEL A DEBT TO SOVIETS AND CUBANS FOR THEIR DECISIVE ROLE IN ANGOLA, AND THE SOVIETS WOULD REGARD APPROVAL OF THE LONG STALLED TAMARA FACILITY AS AN IDEAL PAYOFF.

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3. THESE DEVELOPMENTS REINFORCE ADVISABILITY OF US NAVAL VISIT DURING NEXT TEN WEEKS. VISIBILITY OF US FLAG AND PERSONNEL WOULD BE DRAMATIC IN COUNTRY GROWING ACCUSTOMED TO MASSIVE SOVIET PRESENCE. VISIT WOULD ENCOURAGE THOSE NATIONALISTS WITHIN GUINEAN GOVERNMENT WHO WISH TO RESIST THE SOVIET EMBRACE AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SOVIET NAVAL FACILITY.

4. DESPITE THE IMPROVEMENT IN SOVIET POSITION HERE SINCE DECEMBER 10 WHEN PRESIDENT SEKOU TOURE TOLD ME HE WOULD WELCOME A US NAVAL VISIT, I BELIEVE HE WILL STILL HONOR THAT COMMITMENT.

5. AFTER APPROXIMATELY MID MAY WE RISK HEAVY RAINS WHICH WOULD COMPLICATE PROGRAMING AND REDUCE IMPACT OF VISIT. I RECOMMEND THIS VISIT BE SCHEDULED AT AN EARLY DATE.
HARROP

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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